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**ORRELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**OF THE**

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

**INCORPORATING THE REPORT OF THE**

**PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

**FOR THE YEAR 1962**



# URBAN DISTRICT OF ORRELL

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## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1962

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### MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL :

Councillor R. Cheetham, J.P. (Chairman)

Councillor S. Preston (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors D. Bennett, J.P., W. Darbyshire, A. Evans, W. C. Love, G. H. Nickeas, T. Parkinson, H. A. Simpkin, J.P., Mrs. A. Taberner, J. W. Ward (deceased), R. Winstanley.

### HEALTH COMMITTEE :

Councillor W. Darbyshire (Chairman)

Councillor W. C. Love (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors D. Bennett, J.P., R. Cheetham, J.P., A. Evans, T. Parkinson, S. Preston, J. A. Simpkin, J.P., Mrs. A. Taberner, R. Winstanley.

### PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF :

Medical Officer of Health : G. H. Potter, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector : W. Coupe, C.R.S.I., M.A.P.H.I.  
Certified Inspector of Meat and Food.

Tel. : Wigan 82603.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
COUNCIL OFFICES,  
ORRELL.

July, 1963.

*To the Chairman and Members of Orrell Urban District Council.*

Mrs. Taberner and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the Health of Orrell for the year 1962. It has been compiled as in previous years, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, and an endeavour has been made to embrace the most important details, and particularly those which indicate the state of health of the township.

I would like to take this opportunity of tendering my best thanks to the officials of the Council, and especially to your Public Health Inspector, Mr. W. Coupe, for valuable help and co-operation received throughout the year.

I desire also to express to the Members of the Public Health Committee my appreciation of the courtesy and consideration they have always displayed towards me.

I am, Mrs. Taberner and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

G. H. POTTER,

Medical Officer of Health.

## 1.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,617
Population, Census, 1961 (prov.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,663
Registrar-General's Estimate of Resident Population (Mid-1962)	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,663
Number of Inhabited Houses :							
(a) Census	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,528
(b) End of 1961 according to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,643
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£134,215
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£600

The residential character of the district is more strongly emphasised by the threatened closure of the sole remaining Cotton Mill, although the presence of the Heinz organisation is a steadying influence, bolstering local employment.



## VITAL STATISTICS.

					<i>Total</i>		<i>M.</i>		<i>F.</i>
Live Births	}	Legitimate	...	...	178	...	98	...	80
		Illegitimate	...	...	2	...	1	...	1
Total					180	...	99	...	81
Still Births		...	...	...	1	...	1	...	—
Deaths of Infants under one year of age	}	Legitimate.			3	...	3	...	—
		Illegitimate			—	...	—	...	—
Total					3	...	3	...	—
Total No. of Deaths		...	...	...	126	...	70	...	56

Adjusted Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population. 15·3

Birth rate for England and Wales ... 18·0

Adjusted Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 14·5

Death rate for England and Wales ... 11·9

Still birth rate per 1,000 (live and still) births ... 5·5

Still birth rate for England and Wales ... 18·1

The following is a statement showing comparative statistics for the years 1958-62.

Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality					
								Total		Neo-natal			
No. regis-tered	Rate per 1000 popu-lation	No. regis-tered	Rate per 1000 popu-lation	No. regis-tered	Rate per 1000 total births	No. of deaths regis-tered	Rate per 1000 total births	No. of deaths regis-tered	Rate per 1000 live births	No. of deaths regis-tered	Rate per 1000 live births		
ORRELL U.D.C.													
Year 1962	...	180	15.3	126	14.5	1	5.5	Nil	Nil	3	5.6	1	5.6
Year 1961	...	198	16.9	130	11.7	5	24.6	Nil	Nil	5	15.2	1	5.1
Year 1960	...	151	15.4	111	10.5	5	42.0	Nil	Nil	1	6.6	—	—
Year 1959	...	149	14.3	108	10.4	4	32.5	Nil	Nil	5	35.0	1	6.7
Year 1958	...	142	14.0	135	13.3	1	34.0	Nil	Nil	2	14.1	Nil	—
Avge. 5 years 1958-62		164	15.2	122	12.1	3.1	27.7	Nil	Nil	3.1	15.3	0.6	3.5

Adjusted Live Birth-rate

Death Rate

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15.3

14.5

The following table shows the chief causes of death and the number of deaths during 1962 compared with the figures of 1961 :

						1962	1961
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	24	15
Leukæmia and Aleukæmia	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	16	24
Coronary disease, Angina	...	...	...	...	...	20	21
Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
Other Heart Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	24	22
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	6	7
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	2	4
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	6	4
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortions	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Ill Defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	12	14
Accident, Suicide and other violent causes	...	...	...	...	...	6	4
Motor Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
All other causes	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
						<hr/>	<hr/>
				Totals	...	126	130
						<hr/>	<hr/>



## 2.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

*Laboratory Arrangements:* Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Public Health Department of the Wigan Infirmary and the Public Health Laboratories, Monsall Hospital, Manchester. When the necessity arises the services of the County Analyst are utilised for Chemical Analysis.

The Disinfestation of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, together with the Curator of the National History Museum at Bolton County Borough, provide expert services for the identification of insects and other pests.

Assessments of special food problems are carried out by the Public Health Laboratories at Colindale and frozen food matters are referred to Low Temperature Research Stations either at Cambridge or Chipping Campden. Other processed foodstuffs and packing problems are referred to the appropriate trade research bureaux.

Liaison exists between the various authorities concerned with Radiation. The U.K.A.E.A. with the Headquarters of the Safety and Health Physics Section at Risley are available for advice on general matters. Your Inspector has undertaken an approved course of training in Radiation Hazards and Monitoring Techniques for many facets of the public welfare will still fall upon Local Authorities and their officers in the Atomic Age.

*Ambulance Services:* Infectious, non-infectious, accident and maternity cases are dealt with by the Motor Ambulances belonging to the Lancashire County Council stationed at the Ambulance Station at Billinge.

The arrangements are adequate and satisfactory.

*National Assistance Act, 1948:* No action was taken under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

REPORT OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
W. COUPE, C.R.S.I., M.A.P.H.I.

1.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

*Water Supply:* The long term benefits of the Makerfield Water Board are not as yet apparent, but in certain minor matters the shape of things to come can be visualised. A higher standard of treatment and distribution will most certainly benefit the district with its black spots of low pressure areas. The routine of repairs both to mains and services can be rationalised and with the lessons of last year's severe frosts in mind it is hoped that some control will in future be exercised on the random laying of service pipes at shallow depths, badly planned plumbing installations and unprotected apparatus.

Many hundreds of closets were severely damaged during last winter and before they are all repaired we shall be back in the burst season. No effort is spared by the Public Health Department to propagate a more rational approach to protect water supplies but the inertia and apathy of the average occupant of dwellings and business premises is pathetic.

Some disturbances of supply were experienced during re-organisation and main laying and "suspect samples" can be accounted for by this.

The most outstanding need is for an augmented supply to the Far Moor Area of Orrell.

*Sewerage and Drainage:* The hardy annuals of conversion of septic tank districts and control of the "overflow" at the River Douglas from our inadequate connection to the trunk main are pointers to the difficulties associated with sewerage and house drainage. These indicate the manner in which our growth has outstripped our services and the need for co-ordination of effort in every Department of an authority. Attempts should be made to assess trends in development so that adequate main services are made available and nuisances need not exist from generation to generation.

An undue number of main and sewer breakdowns were tackled by the Surveyor's staff with excellent results and several longstanding blackspots have been eradicated, not without some monumental work and application by all concerned. If it were not for the fact that the Council is still awaiting its Consultant's Report on the Sewerage of the Area it could well be asked when will the known defects at Orrell Post junction be tackled? As any relaying of sewers will necessitate work in this Area we will still have to live with this perpetual problem for the moment.

*Sanitary Accommodation :*

No. of Privy Middens in the District	...	...	4
„ Closets attached to Privy Middens	...	...	4
„ Pail Closets	...	...	2
„ Freshwater Closets	...	...	3,898
„ Waste Water Closets	...	...	Nil
„ Dry Ashpits	...	...	2
„ Moveable Ashbins	...	...	3,806
„ Houses on Water Carriage System	...	...	3,741

*Sanitary Inspections :*

No. of Premises Visited	...	...	1,003
„ Visits	...	...	2,744
Nuisances	...	...	381
Nuisances Abated	...	...	282
No. of Notices : (a) Informal	...	...	360
(b) Statutory	...	...	58
Legal Proceedings	...	...	Nil

The following inspections were carried out during the year under the provisions of the Public Health and Housings Acts :

Housing (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	622
Sanitary Conveniences	54
Drainage	201
Accumulations	33
Keeping of Animals	7
Inns	10
Enquiries after Infectious Disease	21
Refuse Collection	290
Refuse Disposal	110
Dirty and/or Verminous Premises	12
Tents, Vans, Sheds	6
Miscellaneous Visits	101
Schools	16



*Schools :* Most of the playgrounds are adequately paved.

The school staff and employees in the school meals service are taking an increasing interest in hygiene. The Divisional Executive have complied with all suggestions on points where improvements could be made and no case of infection or complaint arose from this source.

All schools have adequate washing facilities.

*Tents, etc. :* No formal camping is permitted within the district. Occasional transient workers station their vans with temporary permission.

A great deal of work has been necessitated by the presence of numerous "camp" sites set up by employees of the Motorway Project.

*Swimming Baths, etc. :* There are no facilities for swimming within the district, an omission which for educational and recreational purposes should be seriously studied by all who are interested in the welfare and activities of the youth of the District.

*Atmospheric Pollution :* Observations are kept on all industrial installations.

Domestic smoke is the main source of pollution.

The implementation of the "Clean Air Act, 1956" will have little effect within our district as our problem is wind borne from the industrial areas on our flanks, but a start should be made with our own domestic problem.

*Common Lodging Houses :* There are no common lodging houses within the district.

*Factories :* These are subject to inspection as occasion demands and the necessary representations made to owners or occupiers. Most establishments have completely satisfactory toilets, etc.

The new Heinz Factory sets a very high standard of accommodation.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1.—INSPECTIONS for puposes of provisions as to Health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(i) Factories under Local Authorities ...	16	31	2	—
(ii) Factories not in (1) under Local Authority ...	17	35	2	—
(iii) Other Premises ...	7	7	—	—
Total ...	40	73	4	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>		<i>Referred</i>		
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>To H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>By H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>Prosecutions</i>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.I.) ...	1	1			
Inadequate Ventilation ...	1	1			
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—					
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—			
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	2	2			
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—			
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	1	1			
Total ...	5	5			



*Rodent Control.*—Sewer : Test Baiting and Treatment.

The test baiting and treatment of infested sewers continues to be the main bulwark in our control measures designed to confine the rat to close limits of operation.

The depredations of rodents if left to proliferate are costly and highly dangerous. The rat is a complete parasite on our social structure and it is only by the strictest repression of this pest that our homes and living areas are not fouled.

The continuous drive to educate all members of the public in the reporting of rodents and hygienic precautions necessary to discourage their presence is absolutely necessary to avoid flare-ups of infestation.

Rat and mouse control is today more and more a necessity and the control techniques are better understood and practised—but the authorities are dependent on their residents and their neighbouring councils for co-operation in report and positive action in the fight to control these pests.

Dwellings are treated free under the direction of the Public Health Inspector by a part-time Rodent Operator.

The treatment of business, farm and other premises is done on a chargeable basis and regular inspection ensures a reasonable freedom from the depredations of Rats and Mice.

<i>Type of Property</i>				
<i>Non-Agricultural.</i>			<i>Agricultural.</i>	
	<i>Dwelling houses.</i>	<i>All other</i>		
(a) No. of properties in district .	3,675	537	...	16
(b) No. of properties inspected .	187	163	...	—
(c) Total inspections carried out (including re-inspections) ...	373	220	...	—
(d) No. of properties inspected which were found to be in- fested by :				
Rats : Major ...	—	—	...	—
Minor ...	79	72	...	8
Mice : Major ...	—	—	...	—
Minor ...	14	13	...	3
(e) No. of infested properties treated ...	93	80	...	9
(f) Total treatments carried out (including re-treatments) ...	94	92	...	14
(g) No. of "Block" control schemes carried out ...	1	1	...	1
(h) Any other Action : Perimeter checks made in Douglas Valley and Heinz/Porter's Wood Area.				

## HOUSING

(a) *Local Authority* : After the present re-housing programme is completed, the most obvious need is for additional sites for infilling schemes, both for flatlets and ordinary housing. There is ample land available which is at the moment cluttered with derelict houses, remnants of miscellaneous occupation and a general offence to all our senses. These semi-derelict areas should be surveyed and assessed for their potential use either to the community or private developers. The need is for appraisal of our requirements and an attempt to plan our area to our needs. All the obvious sites have gone and what is now needed is the doubly beneficial efforts of clearance and re-development. Whilst the largest block is centred on the Loch Street Area, certain patches of potentially valuable land can be found throughout the area and as the administrative machinery is of necessity formal and slow, the initial steps should be commenced as soon as the policy of re-development is approved.

(b) *The Rent Act, 1957* : The Rent Act has served its ostensible purpose of putting house ownership on an economic footing but the conditions are little if any improved.

(c) *Grant Aid Schemes* : Nearly all the first crop of Standard Grants have now been completed and there remains the hardcore of the real problem—the tenanted house. It is obvious that owners are not voluntarily going to improve the dwellings for their tenants and indeed a good many have not the capital to outlay. It, therefore, leaves us to consider the possibility of loans where lack of capital is the stumbling block, and rehabilitation of the whole district tied up with the re-development schemes outlined above.

A serious gap in our housing improvements is caused by the lack of encouragement of improvement grants in connection with our older houses. It is suggested that many good houses could be brought into fuller use if the general improvement grant scheme was adopted.

(d) *Statutory and Informal Action* : The cumulative effort of patch and repair, although slow, is one of the brighter features of the housing situation. Any action which can put a stop to the steady deterioration in the mass of our general stock of dwellings is a welcome step towards a more comfortable and healthy home life. The mundane jobs of inspection, report, notices, supervision

of gutters, roof and brickwork repairs, renewal of windows frames and re-pointing, are all pieces of the mosaic of which the pattern of good housing is formed. The effect on the tenants after major renewals have been effected is significant and after the drabness of decay is replaced by the sprightly bright and stimulating re-decoration which the tenant gladly attempts.

To see such a home after the damp black plaster has been replaced is sufficient reward in itself.

It is to be hoped that the Council for their part will favourably view every suggested scheme which will improve the homes of residents who will never be lucky enough to warrant a Council House but whose dwelling could be repaired and improved even at what might be thought excessive cost. The long term benefit surely outweighs the initial trouble and cost.

#### 1.—INSPECTIONS OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	383
(b)	No. of inspections, formal or informal for the purposes	...	...	...	...	622
(2)	Dwelling houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit :					
(a)	No. found during year	...	...	...	...	301
(3)	No. of dwellings found during year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	...	...	...	...	171

#### 2.—CLEARANCE AREAS HOUSING ACT, 1936-57, AND HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENT ACT, 1954.

(1)	No. of dwelling houses demolished during year in Clearance Areas :					
(a)	Unfit houses	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b)	Other houses	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2)	No. of persons displaced	...	...	...	...	Nil



## 3.—HOUSES NOT INCLUDED IN CLEARANCE AREAS.

		<i>No. of Houses</i>	<i>Persons Displaced</i>
(1)	Houses demolished or closed during the year :		
(a)	Housing Act, 1957 :		
	(i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 17(1) ) ... ..	12	13
	(ii) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Sections 16, 17 and 35, and still in force ...	6	2
	(iii) Parts of building closed (Section 18) ... ..	Nil	Nil
(b)	Housing Act, 1949 :		
	(i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 3(1) and 3(2) ... ..	Nil	Nil
(c)	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 :		
	(i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 10(1) and 11(2) ... ..	Nil	Nil
			<i>No. of Houses</i>
(2)	Repairs during the year :		
(a)	Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts ...		73
(b)	Public Health Acts—action after service of formal notice—Houses in which defects were remedied :		
	(i) By owners ... ..		11
	(ii) By local authority in default of owners...		Nil

(c)	Housing Act, 1936—action after service of formal notice (Section 9, 10, 11 and 16) Houses made fit :	
(i)	By owners ... ..	3
(ii)	By local authority in default of owners...	—
(d)	Housing Repair and Rents Act, 1954 : Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5) ...	—

4.—UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE (HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENT ACT, 1954)  
Nil.

5.—HOUSING ACT, 1949 : IMPROVEMENT GRANTS, ETC.

No action was taken in the district to implement the improvement of private or publicly owned houses with public funds.

6.—RENT ACT, 1957.

Analysis of action taken by Local Authority under Repair procedure.

Part I : Applications for Certificates of Disrepair.

(1)	Number of applications for certificates ... ..	2
(2)	Number of decisions not to issue certificates ...	Nil
(3)	Number of decisions to issue certificates ... ..	2
(a)	in respect of some but not all defects ...	—
(b)	in respect to all defects ... ..	2
(4)	Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule ... ..	2
(5)	Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority proviso to paragraph 5 of the First Schedule ...	Nil
(6)	Number of Certificates issued ... ..	Nil

Part II : Applications for Cancellation of Certificates :

(7)	Applications by landlords to Local Authority for cancellation of Certificates ... ..	Nil
(8)	Objection by tenants to cancellation of Certificates	Nil
(9)	Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenant's objection ... ..	Nil
(10)	Certificates cancelled by Local Authority ...	—



## 7.—ERECTION OF NEW HOMES.

(a)	By Local Authority	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b)	By other Authorities	...	...	...	...	Nil
(c)	By other bodies and persons	...	...	...	...	76

## 8.—HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959

## STANDARD GRANTS

Action during the year :		<i>No. of dwelling or other buildings affected</i>
	<i>No. of schemes</i>	
(a)	Submitted to local authority ...	19
(b)	Approved by local authority ...	11
(c)	Work completed ...	15

## 9.—PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) *Conversions* : As the second stage of the Slum Clearance Programme nears completion, the shadow of the privy midden recedes and it is with great satisfaction we note the practical solution of the district's sanitary accommodation.

(b) *Collections* : Investigations into the use of paper sacks were carried out and apart from the cost, several snags in design were met with. It is felt that there is a future for this type of device as its simplicity of a clean receptacle every week must surely outweigh the slightly higher cost. In these days of comparative affluence no normal person is going to object to such an improvement for the cost of a 1d. per week. It is felt that if the correct device was found, the district could well embark on a replacement scheme. In our own Council Houses many bins will shortly require renewal, possibly in numbers far exceeding our annual replacement quota. If we initially set out for 600 units for a year we could expect within six years to convert our District to a cleaner and easier system of scavenging. The prospect of leaving behind heavy dirty bins with its added chore of taking back the same soiled bin, standing under the kitchen window, would be very welcome.

(c) *Vehicles* : Breakdowns have been common on both vehicles and it is felt that the number of operations demanded daily of the mechanical loader is far in excess of what it was designed to do. The grouping of bins, and rational use of the lift would help, but perhaps the real solution would lie in the use of a low loading hopper suitably screened, which would hold six or seven full bins and be easily discharged by the lift. The screening of the hopper would be a problem and if this could be solved the new machine would be speedier and more reliable as the wear and tear on the lift and mechanism would be considerably reduced.

The older vehicle needs regular maintenance, which it does not receive, mainly owing to the pressure at which it works.

The tractor has one major disadvantage in that it operates on rubbers. Many years of painful experience drives me to say that a tracked vehicle is an absolute necessity for tip maintenance.

(d) *Tippling* : The discouraging difficulties of vandalism, fire-raising, lack of suitable equipment and the difficulty of controlling a tip which is overrun by hooligans, who destroy protective fences, notices, etc., is a reflection on our sense of values. The necessity of disposal of our household refuse in a cleanly fashion should be recognised.

A large area of the tip has now been covered and a certain amount of re-soiling has been done. The need to find adequate covering material is a pressing one in addition to the lack of a suitable tool for grading and levelling.

(e) *Salvage*: The recurrent fluctuation in prices and restrictions on deliveries, coupled with the lack of available staff for separation and baling, makes salvage of saleable materials a precarious business. The recreation of the staff to the salvage bonus has been unsatisfactory and has made no significant difference to the amount collected.

(f) *Staff*: Absences continue to upset the collection schedules and whilst genuine sickness should rightly be covered and cannot be avoided, there is no need for a man to take a fortnight's sick leave to recover from a common cold.

(g) *Summary of Refuse Collection*:

		1961		1962
No. of Ashpits and Privies emptied	...	182	...	122
No. of Bins emptied	... ..	134,514	...	161,893
No. of Loads of Refuse removed	...	2,178	...	1,161

(h) *Disinfestation*: The perennial scourge of the fly and cockroach in our houses and food premises is the main source of risk which we face from insects.

The newer chemicals have proved adequate to control such pests and it is only an attitude of mind which permits infestations to persist and threaten our health and comfort. A drive to eradicate these pests from our food premises is being pursued.

The need to educate the public in the hygiene of refuse control and prevention in general is still very real.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

*Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-1957*: The impact of new methods of food packaging has introduced subtle problems into the control of food handling. Whilst the immediate problem of dirt is avoided, many unseen aspects of storage are posed. Staleness and risks associated with inadequate temperature control are the chief difficulties, together with the mould and decomposition.



The frozen food cabinets, themselves most excellent devices offering clean and cool food, are often abused by jamming them full of raw fish, rolls of bacon and foodstuffs they were never designed to cope with. The resultant mess they make of the frozen foods underneath has to be seen to be believed.

Packaged and canned foods again do not have an eternal shelf life, yet is it common to find ten 'stock years' old gathering dust and rust and even if the food remains edible it is not very satisfactory.

The chief risks, however, centre on confectionery and the cooked and prepared meat and similar trades. Manufacturers premises should be above suspicion and pressure of business should not be given as an excuse for the whole premises, floors and utensils, not being maintained in a cleanly state.

Neglect of hygiene in food handling is the chief cause of outbreaks of food poisoning, but the control of insects and vermin is also a vital precaution.

*Food Condemnation* : The following foodstuffs were surrendered and condemned during the year :

10,600 lb. of Tomato Pulp.

56 lb. Ham.

10 lb. Lambs Liver.

300 lb. Ox Tail.

18 lb. Ox Tongue.

*Licensed Premises* : It is with regret that this trade still hangs on to the questionable practice of re-use of overspill from glass filling and tray swillings. Both licensees and breweries blame the Customs duties for this practice, but it must be pointed out that most beer drinkers ever get an actual full measure in a stamped glass as the " collar " is always accepted.

*Sampling* : Three samples of ice cream and orange squash were taken for bacteriological examination and were found to be satisfactory. The bulk trade is carried on from vehicles and frozen food cabinets and is either the new instant soft ice cream or prepacked from registered and supervised manufacturers.

*Milk and Dairies* : The new licensing procedure, coupled with the control measures exercised by the County Council and the Ministry have rationalised milk control as far as the end product is concerned. The void left by the removal of local control is, however, only partially filled by these routine sampling measures and we still feel that clean milk in every aspect of producing and distribution should still be some concern of the man on the spot. Local Authorities are not altogether happy that the remote control method has ever really effectively superseded the local supervision exercised by Local Authority staff.

			No. of Samples		Satis- factory		Unsatis- factory
(a) Raw Milk :							
(1) Tuberculosis : biological	8	...	8	...	Nil		
(2) Methylene Blue	...	11	...	10	...	1	
(b) Pasteurised :							
(1) Phosphatase (for heat treatment)	...	...	5	...	5	...	Nil
(2) Methylene Blue	...	5	...	5	...	Nil	
(c) Sterilised	...	...	1	...	1	...	Nil

*Food Premises* : Number of food premises, by type of business, in district at the end of the year :

Type of Business	No.
General Grocers and Provision Dealers	36
Greengrocers and Fruiterers (licensed, those selling wet fish, game, etc.)	9
Fishmongers (including those selling poultry, game, etc.)	1
Meat Shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe, etc.)	10
Bakers and/or Confectioners	6
Fried Fish Shops	5
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream, etc.	14
Licensed Premises, Clubs, Canteens, Restaurants, Cafes, Snack Bars and similar establishments	25
Others	14



Number of food premises, by type, registered under section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act or under local acts :

<i>Type of Business</i>	<i>No. Registered 31.12.61</i>	<i>No. of inspections made during the year</i>
Ice-cream—Sale and/or Storage ...	27	54
Preserved Food Premises ...	6	38
Lancs. C.C. (G.P. Act) 1938-57 :		
Licensed Hawkers ...	11	34

*Inspections :* The following number of inspections of food premises other than those referred to above were made during the year :

Bakehouses ...	46
Cafes, Restaurants and Canteens ...	31
Grocers' Shops ...	43
Greengrocers ...	36
Butchers' Shops ...	40
Fish Fryers' Premises and preserved foods ...	46
Miscellaneous ...	—
Confectioners ...	35
Dairies ...	11
Notices served ...	18

*Meat :* There are no licensed slaughter houses within the District. Butchers purchase supplies from Wigan or Stanley Abattoirs.

Regular inspection of all butchers' shops and of the meat found in the shops has been maintained throughout the year. Attention is paid to the condition of delivery vehicles which in some cases call for improvement. There has been an improvement in meat temperature conditions. Temperature checks are now made on cooked foodstuffs held for sale, including frozen as well as cooked foods.

*Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933-54 :* No animals were slaughtered within the district during the year.

## 10.—PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

There were no cases of Scarlet Fever during the year.

*Diphtheria* : No cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year maintaining the clear record of the District over the past fifteen years.

The following statistics relate to the year 1962, and show the number of children resident in Orrell who were immunised and vaccinated.

<i>Type</i>	<i>Pre-School Children</i>	<i>School Children</i>	<i>Adults</i>
Triple Antigen (Diphtheria, Whooping Cough & Tetanus)	146	2	—
Diphtheria Re-inforcing Injections ... ..	1	216	—
Poliomyelitis : Primary ...	224	26	79
Re-inforcing ...	139	220	422
Smallpox Vaccinations :			
Primary ... ..	162	77	222
Re-vaccination ... ..	5	32	171

*Pneumonia* : There were no cases of acute primary pneumonia.

*Measles* : 15 cases of this disease were notified.

*Poliomyelitis* : There were no cases of poliomyelitis during the year.

*Cancer* : There were 24 deaths attributable to Cancer.

Facilities for Radium Treatment for Orrell residents is available at the Radium Institute, Manchester, and at the Wigan Infirmary, which, for this purpose is a sub-clinic of the Manchester centre.

*Food Poisoning* : No cases were reported during the year.

*Tuberculosis* : Three new cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified during the year. No deaths were attributable to the disease. Treatment is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board, and Orrell cases attend the Chest Clinic, Millgate, Wigan.

# PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1962.

Notifiable Diseases	Total cases at all ages	Age Periods Years										Total deaths	Outward hospital transfer	Inward death transfer
		—1	—2	—3	—4	—5	—10	—15	—25	—45	65 and over			
Scarlet Fever	(a) 1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	(b)	(c)	d)
Measles	15	—	4	2	—	4	5	—	—	—	—			
Tuberculosis :	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2			
Respiratory	8	1	1	—	—	1	4	—	—	1	—			
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Totals	27	1	5	2	—	5	10	—	1	1	2			

Total ..	Nil.
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